

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of obtaining certificate of analysis data from a supplier providing a deliverable to a customer, the method comprising:

receiving at a customer system, via a network, a request to submit certificate of analysis data corresponding to said deliverable;

obtaining certificate of analysis data corresponding to said deliverable;

comparing said certificate of analysis data to a predefined specification stored in a database; and,

authorizing delivery of said deliverable to said customer in response to said comparing.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a lot number identifying said deliverable;

wherein said obtaining certificate of analysis data includes determining if said lot number corresponds to an already approved lot number; and

wherein said authorizing delivery of said deliverable occurs if said lot number corresponds to an already approved lot number.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein:

said obtaining certificate of analysis data includes prompting said supplier to provide said certificate of analysis data.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a machine readable indicia to said supplier upon authorizing delivery of said deliverable.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein further comprising:  
reading said machine readable indicia upon receipt of said deliverable to confirm that said deliverable meets said predefined specification.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said deliverable is a good.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said good is a raw material used in a manufacturing process.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said deliverable is a service.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
authorizing delivery of said deliverable if said certificate of analysis data does not meet said predefined specification and storing said certificate of analysis data as out-of-specification data.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
receiving a purchase order number;  
providing a list of deliverables to the supplier in response to the purchase order number;  
receiving a deliverable selected by the supplier from the list of deliverables;  
retrieving said predefined specification in response to said deliverable selected by the supplier.

12. A method of providing certificate of analysis data from a supplier of a deliverable to a customer, the method comprising:

accessing a customer system, via a network, to request submission of certificate of analysis data corresponding to said deliverable;

submitting certificate of analysis data corresponding to said deliverable;

receiving notification from said customer via the network that said certificate of analysis data meets a predefined specification; and,

delivering said deliverable to said customer in response to said notification.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

entering a lot number identifying said deliverable.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

receiving from said customer a machine readable indicia;

providing said machine readable indicia along with said deliverable to said customer.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein said deliverable is a good.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said good is a raw material used in a manufacturing process.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein said deliverable is a service.

19. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

submitting a purchase order number to said customer via said network;

receiving a list of deliverables from said customer;

selecting from said list of deliverables said deliverable to be sent to said customer.

20. A system for obtaining certificate of analysis data from a supplier providing a deliverable to a customer, the system comprising:

a customer system for receiving a request to submit a certificate of analysis data corresponding to a deliverable;

said customer system obtaining certificate of analysis data corresponding to said deliverable;

a database containing a predefined specification;

said customer system comparing said certificate of analysis data to said predefined specification;

said customer system authorizing delivery of said deliverable to said customer in response to said comparing.

21. The system of claim 20 further comprising:

wherein said customer system receives a lot number identifying said deliverable;

said customer system determines if said lot number corresponds to an already approved lot number stored in said database; and

said customer system authorizes delivery of said deliverable if said lot number corresponds to an already approved lot number.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein:

said customer system obtains certificate of analysis data by prompting said supplier to provide said certificate of analysis data.

23. The system of claim 20 wherein:

said customer system provides a machine readable indicia to said supplier upon authorizing delivery of said deliverable.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

25. The system of claim 23 wherein:

said customer system reads said machine readable indicia upon receipt of said deliverable to confirm that said deliverable meets said predefined specification.

26. The system of claim 20 wherein said deliverable is a good.

27. The system of claim 24 wherein said good is a raw material used in a manufacturing process.

28. The system of claim 20 wherein said deliverable is a service.

29. The system of claim 20 wherein:

said customer system authorizes delivery of said deliverable if said certificate of analysis data does not meet said predefined specification and stores said certificate of analysis data in said database as out-of-specification data.

30. The system of claim 20 wherein:

said customer system receives a purchase order number;

said customer system provides a list of deliverables to the supplier in response to the purchase order number;

said customer system receives a deliverable selected by the supplier from the list of deliverables; and,

said customer system retrieves said predefined specification in response to said deliverable selected by the supplier.

31. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for obtaining certificate of analysis data from a supplier providing a deliverable to a customer in a system including a customer system, a database coupled to the customer system and a supplier system coupled to the customer system by a network, the storage medium including instructions for causing the customer system to implement a method comprising:

receiving at the customer system a request to submit certificate of analysis data corresponding to a deliverable;

obtaining certificate of analysis data corresponding to said deliverable;

comparing said certificate of analysis data to a predefined specification; and,

authorizing delivery of said deliverable to said customer in response to said comparing.

32. The storage medium of claim 31 further comprising instructions for causing the customer system to implement:

receiving a lot number identifying said deliverable;

wherein said obtaining certificate of analysis data includes determining if said lot number corresponds to an already approved lot number; and

wherein said authorizing delivery of said deliverable occurs if said lot number corresponds to an already approved lot number.

33. The storage medium of claim 31 wherein:

said obtaining certificate of analysis data includes prompting said supplier to provide said certificate of analysis data.

34. The storage medium of claim 31 further comprising instructions for causing the customer system to implement:

providing a machine readable indicia to said supplier upon authorizing delivery of said deliverable.

35. The storage medium of claim 34 wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

36. The storage medium of claim 34 wherein further comprising instructions for causing the customer system to implement:

reading said machine readable indicia upon receipt of said deliverable to confirm that said deliverable meets said predefined specification.

37. The storage medium of claim 31 wherein said deliverable is a good.

38. The storage medium of claim 37 wherein said good is a raw material used in a manufacturing process.

39. The storage medium of claim 31 wherein said deliverable is a service.

40. The storage medium of claim 31 further comprising instructions for causing the customer system to implement:

authorizing delivery of said deliverable if said certificate of analysis data does not meet said predefined specification and storing said certificate of analysis data as out-of-specification data.

41. The storage medium of claim 31 further comprising instructions for causing the customer system to implement:

receiving a purchase order number;

providing a list of deliverables to the supplier in response to the purchase order number;

receiving a deliverable selected by the supplier from the list of deliverables;

retrieving said predefined specification in response to said deliverable selected by the supplier.